

I. AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing billing information of a first contractor and a second contractor doing work for a company, wherein the first contractor is doing a first service operation at the well site, the second contractor is doing a second service operation at the well site, and the company has a first computer at a remote location relative to the well site, comprising:
 - transporting a second computer to the well site;
 - providing a wireless communication link between the first computer and the second computer;
 - using a first vehicle to facilitate the first contractor doing the first service operation;
 - using a second vehicle to facilitate the second contractor doing the second service operation;
 - inputting into the second computer first invoice data pertaining to the first service operation;
 - inputting into the second computer second invoice data pertaining to the second service operation;
 - generating a first electrical signal from a first transducer associated with the first vehicle;
 - converting the first electrical signal to a first digital value;
 - storing the first digital value on the second computer;
 - using the first digital value to support the validity of the first invoice data; and
 - communicating the first invoice data, ~~and the second invoice data,~~ and first digital value from the second computer to the first computer using the wireless communication link.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first vehicle is used in transporting the second computer to the well site.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying confirmation information on the second computer that indicates that the company has not objected to the first invoice data.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising entering into the second computer a first alphanumeric password that serves as a prerequisite for displaying the confirmation information.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying on the second computer information that indicates that the first invoice data and the second invoice data has been made available to the first computer.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising: generating a second electrical signal from a second transducer associated with the second vehicle; converting the second electrical signal to a second digital value; storing the second digital value on the second computer; and using the second digital value to support the validity of the second invoice data.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first service operation involves manipulating at least one of a plurality of sucker rods and a plurality of tubing.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second service operation involves pumping a fluid.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the fluid is an acid.

11. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the fluid includes cement.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second service operation involves downhole logging, and the second vehicle assists the second contractor in doing the second service operation by transporting a logging transducer to the well site.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first invoice data includes a plurality of line items, which are selectively classifiable as consumable, nonconsumable, labor, and rental.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising entering a well site identifier into the second computer.

15. (currently amended) A method of managing billing information of a first contractor doing work for a company, wherein the first contractor is doing a first service

operation at the well site, and the company has a home base computer at a remote location relative to the well site, comprising:

transporting a mobile computer to the well site;
using a first vehicle to assist the first contractor in doing the first service operation;
~~confirming that the first contractor has performed the first service operation;~~
generating a first electrical signal from a first transducer associated with the first vehicle;
converting the first electrical signal to a first digital value;
storing the first digital value on the mobile computer;
using the first digital value to support the validity of the first service operation;
entering into the mobile computer approval information that indicates that the step of confirming has been carried out;
displaying on the mobile computer a password of a limited useful life in response to entering the approval information into the second computer;
with the aide of the password, submitting to the company first invoice data and the first digital value that pertains to the first service operation; and
terminating the limited useful life of the password after submitting the first invoice data to the company.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising approving the first invoice data based on the existence of the password.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
providing a wireless communication link between the home base computer and the mobile computer; and

communicating the approval information from the mobile computer to the home base computer using the wireless communication link.

18. (currently amended) A method of managing billing information of a first contractor and a second contractor doing work for a company, wherein the first contractor is doing a first service operation at the well site, the second contractor is doing a second service operation at the well site, and the company has a first computer at a remote location relative to the well site, comprising:

using a first vehicle to assist the first contractor in doing the first service operation;
using a second vehicle to assist the second contractor in doing the second service operation;
using the first vehicle to transport a second computer to the well site;
providing a wireless communication link between the first computer and the second computer;
inputting into the second computer first invoice data pertaining to the first service operation;
inputting into the second computer second invoice data pertaining to the second service operation;
generating a first electrical signal from a first transducer associated with the first vehicle;
converting the first electrical signal to a first digital value;
storing the first digital value on the second computer;
using the first digital value to support the validity of the first invoice data; and
communicating the first invoice data, and the second invoice data, and first digital value
from the second computer to the first computer using the wireless communication link;
displaying on the second computer information that indicates that the first invoice data and the second invoice data has been made available to the first computer;
displaying confirmation information on the second computer that indicates that the company has not objected to the first invoice data; and
entering into the second computer a first alphanumeric password that serves as a prerequisite for displaying the confirmation information.

19. (cancelled)
20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the first service operation involves manipulating at least one of a plurality of sucker rods and a plurality of tubing.
21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the second service operation involves pumping a fluid.

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Karp et al., U.S. Patent No. 6591,242 (hereinafter “Karp”) in view of Harvey et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,519,568 (hereinafter “Harvey”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-21

Looking first at claim 1, the broadest pending claim, it is required that a first and second service operation be performed at a single well site, the invoice data of each service operation being inputted into a first computer located at a well site, and then a communication of the first and second invoice data from the first computer to a second computer using a wireless communication link. These elements are not disclosed in the Karp/Logan combination.

By its own definition, Karp discloses a system for tracking clients as they visit the locations of various recipients. Karp discloses that in operation, a caller/client places a call upon arrival at a respective call site. The information transmitted in that call includes, among other things, identity of the client, location of the client, whether the client is arriving or departing, and what tasks were performed. Karp, col. 4, ll. 18-37. As noted in Karp at column 8, lines 44-50, the task codes are entered into the telephone by the client. This is an important concept in Karp’s system: the client, i.e. the one providing the service, enters in what tasks she performed without any additional verification. For example, if the Karp client dispensed medication to a patient, there is no independent verification that this service was done, other than the client herself saying that she did.

Conversely, claims 1, 15, and 18 all call for a transducer to provide a signal that is communicated over the link to prove that the work was done. For example, if a contractor

invoiced a client for pumping concrete, a transducer measuring the flowrate of the concrete would be transmitted with the invoice, independently verifying that the concrete was pumped by providing independent numeric data supporting the invoice.

Karp provides no such a system of verification of the tasks completed therein. The verification system of Karp deals only with user/client verification through biometric readings. Karp does not disclose a system in which the task code transmitted by the client is accompanied with data verifying that the task was completed. For example, if a Karp client entered in that she dispensed medication, there is no independent pill counter in Karp to verify that the medication was actually dispensed, providing actual numeric data that the medication was dispensed. Neither Karp nor Harvey disclose systems in which data is transferred to support an invoice transmitted from a second computer to a first computer. All that is transferred in Karp is an unsupported task code – the Karp central location has no means to verify that the task was completed other than the word of the client that sent the code.

Given the arguments in support of the patentability of independent claims 1, 15 and 20 Applicant submits that the same arguments pertain to all claims dependent from claims 1, 15 and 20.

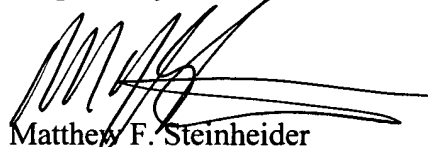
In view of the above, claims 1-21 are respectfully submitted as being clearly distinct and patentable over the art of record and therefore Applicants respectfully request their entry and allowance by the Examiner. Applicants believe the application will then be in position for allowance.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 713-787-1516, or by email at steinheiderm@howrey.com with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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